

Patti VanWagoner

Experience

- Patti VanWagoner, L.C.S.W., has had many roles with the Division of Child and Family Services. She is currently the Deputy Director of Child and Family Services. She is a member of NASW and has provided casework and clinical services to children and families through her roles within Child and Family Services. A native of Utah, Patti received her Bachelor's Degree from Utah State University in the area of Child and Family Development. She completed her Master's of Social Work at the University of Utah. She has been employed with the State Department of Human Services for 16 years. She has a strong commitment to serving children and families in the State of Utah.
- Patti's vision of her role at this time is to support the State Program Specialists and administration in being a team that works with the regions to enhance the child welfare system. Her philosophy is grounded in the Practice Model Principles that guide Child and Family Services in working with children and families.
- Patti credits line workers and supervisors for the changes that have been occurring within Child and Family Services since the inception of the Practice Model. It's working with children and families one day at time that makes a difference in how we are perceived and viewed as a support rather than as an agency that removes children.
- Patti has worked in the capacity of a foster care/in-home caseworker, completed assessments for child safety, and provided intensive family preservation. She has been a supervisor, team leader, associate region director, and, until her move to the state office, she was a Community Service Manager for South Salt Lake, Holladay, Murray, Midvale, Sandy, Draper, South Jordan, West Jordan, Riverton, Herriman, and Bluffdale.
- Patti has a great interest in building the capacity to serve families through the communities in which they live and supports the concept of a child welfare system of care. Partnerships with community members and local agencies working together to create and craft resources with families are what she sees as critical components of meeting the goals of Child and Family Services.
- Patti enjoys working with people and values the relationships she has built throughout her career with Child and Family Services.

Education

B.S., Utah State University, Child and Family Development

M.S.W., University of Utah